

and measures approximately 1.25×1 inch. It is pure white, sparingly marked all over with large round and oval bright brown and slaty-grey spots of various sizes, the majority of these spots forming an irregular ring on the larger end. Mr. Bartlett is of opinion that, judging from the egg, the nearest ally of *Pityriasis* would be *Gymnorhina* of Australia, as arranged by Gadow (Cat. of Birds, viii. p. 90).

Proposed Memoir of the late A. G. More.—Many friends of the late naturalist Alexander G. More have expressed their wishes to see a short memoir of him published. Any one having letters or papers of interest relating to this subject is requested to lend them for selection to his sister, Miss More, 74 Leinster Road, Rathmines, Dublin.

XIII.—*Obituary.*—MR. H. T. WHARTON, MR. H. SEEBOHM, Lieut. H. E. BARNES, DR. R. BROWN, and the Rt. Hon. T. H. HUXLEY.

HENRY THORNTON WHARTON, whose death we recorded in our last number, was the third son of the late Rev. H. J. Wharton, vicar of Mitcham, Surrey, where he was born on Nov. 16th, 1846. He was educated at Charterhouse and Wadham College, Oxford, where he took the degree of B.A. in 1871 and M.A. in 1874. Wharton selected the profession of Medicine, and became M.R.C.S. Eng. in 1875. In addition to a few papers in 'The Zoologist' and 'The Ibis' on the orthography, derivation, or meaning of the names of birds, he published a 'List of British Birds,' the genera being arranged according to Sundevall's method, and displayed much classical knowledge as editor of the 'B. O. U. List of British Birds,' during the five years which elapsed between the inception and conclusion of that work. Apart from ornithology, he was an excellent Greek scholar and a leading authority upon Sappho.

HENRY SEEBOHM.—With very deep regret we record the loss of our excellent friend and coadjutor Henry Seebohm,

one of the most constant and valued contributors to this Journal. Henry Seebohm, who died at his residence in South Kensington on the 26th November last, was the son of a well-known member of the Society of Friends, and descended from a family which, though resident in Germany for several generations, came originally from Sweden. Born at Bradford in 1832, Henry Seebohm evinced from his boyhood a strong love of natural history, and devoted to it all the time he could spare from his hours of business. But some years elapsed before he acquired those ample means which enabled him to gratify his tastes more completely. Then, not content with being a mere collector and cabinet naturalist, he made journeys into various parts (Greece, Asia Minor, Scandinavia, Germany, and Russia), in order to collect specimens and to study his feathered favourites in their native haunts. One of his most successful expeditions was that to the valley of the Lower Petchora, in Northern Russia, in company with Mr. J. A. Harvie-Brown, in 1875, when eggs of the Grey Plover, the Little Stint, and the Petchora Pipit (*Anthus gustavi*), besides those of several other rare species, were obtained. In 1877, in company with Captain Wiggins, Seebohm visited the valley of the Yenesei, in Siberia, and again made important collections of birds and eggs. He also spent some time on the island of Heligoland, and there studied the migrations of birds under the veteran ornithologist, Herr Gätke. Later on he visited various parts of Southern Europe, and undertook a journey to South Africa, in order to observe European birds in their winter-quarters, as well as to collect materials for his work on the Geographical Distribution of the *Charadriidæ*, which appeared in 1888.

Kind-hearted and liberal, Seebohm was always ready to assist a struggling ornithologist, and will be greatly missed by a large circle of friends. To the British Museum of Natural History he for many years was a most liberal donor, and we are pleased to be able to say that the whole of his collection of birds has been bequeathed to that institution. For some time past Seebohm had been in weak health, but

his interest in ornithology never slackened. So lately as October the 23rd he attended a meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club, and took part in their discussions, and up to within a week of his death was able to see his friends and to converse on moot questions in ornithology.

At the time of his death Seebohm had in preparation a paper for 'The Ibis' on the birds of Vladivostock, whence he had recently received an important collection, and an Illustrated Monograph of the Thrushes, to which he had devoted much time and attention for many years, was nearly ready for publication.

Henry Seebohm was the author of 71 memoirs and papers which have appeared in this Journal since 1876. A few other products of his pen will be found in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society,' 'The Zoologist,' and in other periodicals. The following is a list of his separately published works :—

1. *Siberia in Europe: a visit to the Valley of the Petchora, in North-east Russia, with descriptions of the Natural History, Migration of Birds, &c.* 8vo. London, 1880.
2. *Catalogue of the Passeriformes, or Perching Birds, in the Collection of the British Museum. Cichlomorphæ: Part II., containing the Family Turdidæ.* Vol. V. 8vo. London, 1881.
3. *Siberia in Asia: a Visit to the Valley of the Yenesay in East Siberia. With Descriptions of the Natural History, Migration of Birds, &c.* 8vo. London, 1882.
4. *A History of British Birds, with Coloured Illustrations of their Eggs.* Text 3 vols.; plates 1 vol. Royal 8vo. London, 1883–85.
5. *The Geographical Distribution of the Family Charadriidæ, or the Plovers, Sandpipers, Snipes, and their Allies.* 4to. London, 1887.
6. *The Birds of the Japanese Empire.* Royal 8vo. London, 1890.
7. *The Classification of Birds: an Attempt to Diagnose the Subclasses, Orders, Suborders, and some of the Families*

- of Existing Birds. 8vo. London, 1890. Supplement to ditto. 8vo. London, 1895.
8. The Geographical Distribution of British Birds. 8vo. London, 1893.
9. Address to the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union, Skipton, 1893. 8vo. London, 1893.

Lieut. H. E. BARNES, F.Z.S.—Those of our readers who are interested in the ornithology of India will regret to hear of the death of Lieut. H. E. Barnes, author of that useful handbook 'The Birds of Bombay,' and of a valuable series of papers entitled "Nesting in Western India," which appeared, with excellent illustrations drawn by himself, in the 'Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society.'

Barnes was born at Oxford in 1848, and received his education at the University School there. His father apprenticed him to a cabinet-maker, but he ran away to Reading and tried to enlist in the Royal Engineers. Not being up to the required measurements, he joined the 2nd Queen's, and went with them to Aden in 1866, where he served as regimental schoolmaster for two years. He joined the Commissariat Department in 1870, and served in the Afghan War in 1879-80, after which he obtained his commission.

For the last twenty years Lieut. Barnes has been an active collector of eggs and birds'-skins, especially while he was stationed at Aden, Deesa, Mount Abu, Sind, Neemuch, Saugor, Poona, and Bombay. He leaves behind him a valuable collection—consisting of several thousand eggs of 767 species, mostly in clutches, together with a complete catalogue and carefully prepared notes, as to when and where the eggs were taken. The collection also includes 382 skins of Indian birds.

Barnes will be known to all readers of 'The Ibis' by the excellent article on the birds of Aden published in this Journal for 1893.

ROBERT BROWN.—Dr. Robert Brown, who was born in Scotland in 1842, and died in October last, was a well-known traveller in the Arctic Regions, North and South America, and elsewhere. He was also a geographer of high qualifications, and an industrious writer in journals and magazines. Amongst the 30 volumes and a large number of articles and reviews of which Dr. Brown was the author, one only, so far as we know, relates expressly to ornithology, that is, his "Synopsis of the Birds of Vancouver Island," published in 'The Ibis' for 1868, which contains a full summary of our knowledge of the avifauna of that island, as it stood at that period.

THOMAS HENRY HUXLEY.—We are unwilling to close our sad Obituary for 1895 without reference to the death of Professor Huxley, which took place on the 20th of June last. It is not necessary here to recapitulate the events of Huxley's life, which have been published in all the newspapers and journals *, nor to repeat the praises of his career, which are in everybody's mouth. But ornithologists must not forget that at least two of the most important and epoch-marking papers that he ever wrote related to our special branch of zoological science. When Huxley came to the Class of Birds in the course of his lectures at the Royal College of Surgeons, he was asked by the writer of this notice how he meant to classify them. His well-remembered reply was that he intended to treat birds as "extinct animals," and arrange them solely by their skeletons, as being the most enduring parts of their organic structure, and as having been hitherto much too little attended to. The result of Huxley's studies was, as we all know, a re-arrangement of birds on entirely new principles. Huxley quickly discovered that the various modifications of the cranial bones which are found in the class "Aves" had been unaccountably neglected by previous students. Mainly on these variations he founded the

* See (for such information) "Thomas Henry Huxley," 'Nature,' vol. lli. p. 226 (1895).

celebrated memoir on the Classification of Birds *, which he brought before the Zoological Society on the 11th April, 1867. This memoir, we need hardly say, effected a complete revolution in the hitherto generally adopted arrangement of birds. Some of Huxley's conclusions have, no doubt, been modified by the subsequent work of Parker, Garrod, Forbes, Fürbringer, and others. But the great value of cranial characters in the arrangement of birds remains almost unimpaired to the present day, and is fully recognized by all the leading systematists.

Huxley's second great Bird-paper was brought before the Zoological Society in May of the following year (1868), and related to the characters and distribution of the *Gallinæ* † and their relatives. The division, then first suggested, of the typical *Gallinæ* into "*Peristeropodes*" and "*Alectoropodes*," has been agreed to and adopted by all subsequent authorities. Here, too, Huxley left his mark, as he did on every subject which he handled. Of no one may it be more truly said, "*Nihil tetigit, quod non ornavit.*"

* "On the Classification of Birds; and on the Taxonomic Value of the Modifications of certain of the Cranial Bones observable in that Class," P. Z. S. 1867, pp. 415-472.

† "On the Classification and Distribution of the *Alectoromorphæ* and *Heteromorphæ*," P. Z. S. 1868, pp. 294-319.